



Michael F. Easley
Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
Secretary, DENR

PARKS SYSTEM GETS \$8.78 MILLION IN PARTF FUNDS

By CHARLIE PEEK

Public Information Officer

**HAMMOCKS BEACH
STATE PARK** — The NC Parks
and Recreation Authority
approved a list of capital
improvement projects worth
\$8.78 million as presented by
the NC Division of Parks and
Recreation at a meeting here Oct.
20.

In addition, the author-
ity set aside \$2.25 million for
land acquisition projects planned
by the division.

The capital improvement
package includes projects at 12
state parks plus planning funds
for a visitor's center at Dismal
Swamp where the parks system
owns land.

Included in the package
is \$1.54 million to replace a bath-
house at Hammocks Beach State
Park that sustained severe hurri-
cane damage; \$1.51 million to
upgrade the Crosswinds recre-
ation site at Jordan Lake State
Recreation Area; \$354,580 to
renovate a 1930s-era lodge at
Morrow Mountain State Park
into a community center;

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Park superintendents compete in a quiz bowl about personnel policies at the recent conference. From left are Martha Woods, Scott Daughtry, Eric Dousharm, Jody Merritt and Alan Rogers.

SUPERINTENDENTS TACKLE RADIO AND SALARY ISSUES

By CHARLIE PEEK

Public Information Officer

The lack of a statewide
radio communications system
and salary inequity between rang-
ers and other state law enforce-
ment officers continue to be the
top concerns of park superinten-
dents, according to comments
and survey results presented at
the 51st annual conference of park
superintendents of the NC Divi-
sion of Parks and Recreation.

During an informal ques-

tion-and-answer session during
the conference at Wildacres Re-
treat, the superintendents and
division leaders agreed to fash-
ion a task force to tackle the prob-
lem of unreliable radio commu-
nications.

Lewis Ledford, superin-
tendent of state parks, said that
the issues of communications and
salary parity topped the list of
concerns in a survey he made ear-
lier this year. Ledford said that

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UP CLOSE & "PERSONNEL"

Promotions

Several division employees were promoted in October.

Ronald R. Anderson was promoted to Park Ranger I at Singletary Lake State Park where he had been serving as a general utility worker.

Also, *Joy M. O'Neill* was promoted to Park Ranger II at Pettigrew State Park.

Ronald T. Bowling was promoted to Safety Officer III. He has been employed with the

division for nine years and was promoted from Park Ranger III at Falls Lake State Recreation Area.

Loretta M. Fleming was promoted to North District Interpretation and Education Specialist. She had served as a Park Ranger II at Medoc Mountain State Park.

New Employees

Seven new employees joined the division this October, including several in maintenance.

William "Keith" Fowler is

the new Facility Maintenance Supervisor II at Falls Lake State Recreation Area. He came to the division from UNC-Chapel Hill where he was employed for more than 14 years performing and supervising a variety of maintenance work.

Charles David Forsythe is the new mechanic at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. He has 17 years of maintenance and repair experience on a variety of engines.

New maintenance mechanics also include *Andrew James Foster* and *Marvin Edward (Eddie) Taylor*. Foster is the new maintenance mechanic at Goose Creek State Park. He has an associate of art's degree in environmental science technology and several years of experience performing a variety of maintenance tasks. Taylor is the new maintenance mechanic at Carolina Beach State Park. He brings 12 years of experience as an electrician to his new position.

Also, two park rangers joined the division this month. *Stacy Lynn Hines* is a new park ranger at Falls Lake State Recreation Area. She has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and parks and recreation management, and she also has seasonal experience at Carolina Beach State Park.

Joseph "Austin" Paul is a new park ranger at Pettigrew State Park. He has a bachelor's degree in recreation management and has seasonal experience at Mount Mitchell State Park.

Verné Elizabeth Evans is the new office assistant at Medoc Mountain State Park. She has associate degrees in pre-liberal arts and medical assisting, as well as several years of experience in health care environments.



ASSPD 2001

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST STATE PARK DIRECTORS TOUR HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK OCT. 25 DURING THEIR THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA. THE NC DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION WAS HOST FOR THE 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH ITS THEME OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. DENR SECRETARY BILL ROSS GREETED THE ATTENDEES. THE CONFERENCE ALSO TRAVELED TO FORT MACON AND CAROLINA BEACH STATE PARKS AND FORT FISHER STATE RECREATION AREA.

RANGER RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD

By TAMARA WARD
Publications Coordinator

No one becomes a park ranger to save lives. And, no park ranger goes on duty expecting to be distinguished by the governor for following procedure. Marcus Smith, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area ranger, didn't expect to save a man's life when he went on duty April 13. And he didn't expect to receive a call several months later informing him that he was to receive the Governor's Award for Excellence for his actions.

"It was a real shock," Smith said. "I feel what I did is what anyone out here would have done. I'm really honored and happy to get the award."

Smith was one of 15 recipients who were chosen from 81 statewide nominees to receive the highest honor a state employee may receive. The awards were presented in an October 22 ceremony at the NC Museum of History.

The day Smith earned the award was the Friday before Easter weekend, and Jordan Lake campgrounds were nearing capacity. Smith was manning the Crosswinds campground entrance station when a woman drove up to request help for an unconscious man at her campsite. When Smith arrived at the scene, a man was lying near a recreation vehicle, barely breathing, and the smell of ammonia filled the air.

Smith and a volunteer dragged the man away from the vehicle and its odor to the edge of the campsite. After attempts to contact paramedics with his radio failed, Smith used his personal cell phone to call for assistance. Smith monitored the camper's vital signs, resuscitating him when the man stopped breathing.

By the time paramedics arrived, the camper was coughing and regaining consciousness.

Later, Smith would learn that the man fully recovered and that his condition was caused when he inhaled leaking ammonia from a refrigerator.

"I honestly never thought I would have to do something like that," Smith said, adding that he was grateful for annual CPR training and First Responder refresher courses.

Unbeknownst to Smith, Billy Totten, Park Superintendent I, nominated him for the Governor's Award for Excellence after being contacted by the family involved in the incident.

"Their description of how much it meant to them and their letters really indicated that they felt [the victim] would not be alive were it not for what Marcus did," Totten said. "I felt that, indeed, deserved recognition."

Totten said he is proud of Smith and proud of all division park rangers. "What Marcus did is representative of the type of work all rangers do across the state," Totten said. "Marcus was the one that was in the place at that time who responded the way he should have responded. So he receives this reward for himself but also for the rest of us."

Smith isn't the only park ranger who was confronted with a life-or-death situation this year. Rangers Scott Robinson and Earl Weaver at Lake James State Park and rangers Chad Hagie and Chris Day at Falls Lake State Recreation



In addition to the governor's plaque, Smith (above and below at center with State Personnel Director Thomas Wright and DENR Chief Deputy Secretary Dempsey Benton) received three days of vacation leave and a two-night stay at the Inn on Biltmore Estate. And, thanks to his successful mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, his fellow park rangers also gave him a new nickname — Hot Lips.



Area responded to drownings by organizing volunteers to search the water and attempting resuscitation after the victims were found. Rangers who responded to serious traffic accidents included Jordan Lake ranger Christopher Fox, who witnessed an accident and cut a seatbelt to keep it from choking the victim. In addition, rangers Chad Hagie, Matt Majors and John Metz at Falls Lake State Recreation Area, with the help of volunteers, lifted a vehicle that was overturned on its driver. At South Mountains State Park, several rangers participated in a 2 1/2-hour rescue to evacuate a woman who fell over one of the park's waterfalls, and on a separate occasion, ranger Jeremy Harrill helped administer life support to a mountain biker whose lung had collapsed.

the superintendents rated the biggest "successes" of the division as the opening of new visitor's centers, the program of land acquisition and the acquisition of Gorges State Park.

Phil McKnelly, division director, said one difficulty of addressing the communications problem is that it cannot be ranked on the same priority list as land acquisitions and the construction program. He pointed out that the latter are funded by monies from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, while any improvements in communications must be funded by operating revenues.

As a result, he said, any improvements in radio communications now would likely have to come at the expense of additional personnel.

"All of this is coming in very curious times," McKnelly said, referring to the current state budget problems. "If I had to use a word, I'd use 'confused.'"

McKnelly said that state personnel officials may re-examine the issue of salary parity in

coming months, and that their traditional arguments that the parks system does not have a problem with recruitment or turnover are no longer valid. That may shed new light on their consideration, he said.

Ledford said the most recent figures show each ranger in the state looks out for an average 797 acres and 69,000 visitors annually. (At recreation areas, the averages are 239 acres and 71,000 visitors.)

McKnelly also told the superintendents that, within the arena of land acquisition, the growth of existing state parks must be balanced against a new park expansion program that's just beginning to take shape. That expansion could be accelerated by the possibility of massive land sales in the state by International Paper Co. and Crescent Land and Timber, he said.

Division community planner Alan Eakes briefed the superintendents on the expansion program. He said that the division's expansion committee has been ranking more than 50

sites as potential future state parks or natural areas.

"We're trying now to get a measurable five or 10-year plan," he said.

McKnelly said that having such an expansion plan in place will equip the division to act quickly if prime sites become available and will help the division do its part in the Million Acre Initiative.

This year, the superintendents conference offered more training sessions than in recent years including seminars by Associate Attorney General Stacey Phipps on negligence law; by DENR human resources training leaders Rita Richardson, Ann Waddle and Barbara Bland on creating peak performance and grievance policies; by exhibits technician Siohban O'Neal on creating effective exhibits; and by Public Information Officer Charlie Peek on press relations.

As always, service awards were presented during the conference and this year, they included awards to Ledford and each of the four district superintendents. The superintendents also presented special awards and recognition to Judy Warren, the division's personnel technician, who is retiring, Falls Lake Superintendent David Kellam, who is leaving the division, and to McKnelly.

Greg Schneider, superintendent at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, won the notorious Backwards Bullet Award, presented by West District Superintendent Walt Gravley. Other nominees were Lea Beazley, Mike Seigh, Steve Pagano, George Barnes, Scott Kershner, Bryan Dowdy, Ed Farr and Dwayne Stutzman.



"Judge Judy" Warren officiates the quiz bowl during the conference. Warren, who retired at the end of October, was given a special award at the conference.

MOUNT MITCHELL DEDICATES NEW MUSEUM

By CHARLIE PEEK
Public Information Officer

MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK – To protect its environment, North Carolina needs the same spirit of bold leadership that it had in 1915 when Mount Mitchell State Park was formed, Secretary Bill Ross of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a visit here Oct. 3.

Ross came to North Carolina's oldest state park to join in the dedication of a new museum exhibit hall by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation. It was his first official function at a state park since he was named secretary in January.

"It took bold leadership in 1915 to take the steps necessary to protect this park. It will take bold leadership by us and by the legislature to do the things today that we need to do," Ross told a gathering of local dignitaries and parks officials.

Ross specifically mentioned a measure that has been

stalled in the NC General Assembly that would place new restrictions on utility plant emissions. He called that "a critical step to protect the air and the citizens."

Ross joined Phil McKnelly, division director, and Lewis Ledford, superintendent of state parks, in cutting a ribbon on the 1,385-square-foot exhibit hall near the mountain's summit. The facility and its state-of-the-art exhibits are part of \$1.23 million in improvements at the park in the past two years.

The improvements also include renovations to a gift shop, a renovation and 1,920-square-foot expansion of the park office and realignment and repaving of the parking area due to safety and accessibility concerns. Contractor for the exhibits was Exhibits Unlimited of Alexandria, Va. working with Chris White Design of Crownsville, Md.

Special guests at the ceremony included members of the N.C. Parks, Parkway and Forest Development Council and Dan Brown, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Ledford noted that, as a park ranger, he was present when the first museum was dedicated with the help of former DENR secretary Joe Grimsley, and that the division has come a long way in planning and building new visitor facilities such as exhibit halls using funds from a 1993 bond referendum and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.



DENR Secretary Bill Ross speaks at Mount Mitchell's museum exhibit hall dedication.

PARTF

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\$287,712 to replace toilet facilities at William B. Umstead State Park; \$800,000 to design recreation facilities at Pilot Mountain State Park; \$334,236 for a footbridge at Medoc Mountain State Park; \$541,489 to improve the Hidden Cove Access at Lake James State Park; \$623,967 to upgrade the summit tower and access trail at Mount Mitchell State Park; \$243,000 for design of a visitor's center at South Mountains State Park; \$573,763 for sand removal at Jockey's Ridge State Park; and \$336,099 for a picnic area toilet facility at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.

The package, as presented by Lewis Ledford, superintendent

of state parks, also includes \$800,000 for major maintenance; \$200,000 for small trails; \$150,000 as emergency funds; and \$50,000 for exhibit repair.

The land acquisition request includes \$500,000 for Eno River State Park; \$450,000 for Lake Norman State Park; \$200,000 for Lumber River State Park; \$300,000 for Merchants Millpond State Park; and \$300,000 for South Mountains State Park. The authority also set aside \$500,000 to pursue land purchases along the Neuse River corridor in Johnston County. The division, working with the Triangle Land Conservancy, will seek additional funds from the Natu-

ral Heritage Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for this project.

The authority also awarded a total \$310,831 to five local park projects. These were funds remaining from the 2000-01 funding cycle plus the return of an unused grant from the Town of Sugar Mountain.

The grants will be used to build new parks in LaGrange in Lenoir County, Farmville in Pitt County and Swansboro in Onslow County. Also, Transylvania County will use a grant to upgrade a park, and Caldwell County will use a grant to purchase land for a park in the southern part of that county.

DIRECTOR OF STATE PARKS SYSTEM WILL HEAD NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

RALEIGH — Dr. Philip K. McKnelly isn't just directing the NC Division of Parks and Recreation these days. He was recently elected president of the National Association of State Park Directors.

McKnelly has been the director of North Carolina's parks system since 1989 and a member of the board of directors of the national organization since 1996. He was elected president at the organization's annual conference at Montgomery Bell State Park near Nashville, TN, in September.

The National Association of State Park Directors was organized in 1962 as a forum for the exchange of ideas on state park programs and as a way for leaders in the field to take collective positions on issues affecting state parks. It also encourages the development of professional leadership and

develops methods of working with other agencies involved in parks and recreation.

"I feel this appointment reflects the high regard that other states have for the way North Carolina has developed its parks system over the past decade," McKnelly said. "More and more often, parks professionals in other regions are examining the way that our state operates, particularly regarding protection of natural resources and maintaining public support."

McKnelly, 57, is a native of Arkansas and a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Texas A&M University. He was an associate professor of Recreation Resources Administration at North Carolina State University from 1973-79, before an appointment as chief of Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation at TVA-Land

Between the Lakes in Kentucky. He returned to North Carolina in 1985, and has also served as superintendent of state parks and deputy director of the division.

He has served as vice-chairman of the Association of Southeast State Park Directors, Director of the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Management School sponsored by North Carolina State University and the National Recreation and Parks Association, and in 1997 was elected to the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

Earlier this year, McKnelly testified before the U.S. House Committee on Resources in support of the pending Conservation and Restoration Act, which would provide federal funding for local park and recreation development.

AMEN CORNER

Following is a letter e-mailed to the division headquarters in Raleigh. Have you had more good words on the division and its employees? Send them along to The Steward so that we can share.

Sir,

This past weekend, my Scout Troop, 918, from Pfafftown, NC had the distinct pleasure of camping in group sites A&B at Hammocks Beach State Park. I just wanted to let someone in Raleigh know how much our Troop enjoyed this magnificent park. The Ranger on duty at the island was very nice and helpful and appeared to be hardworking whenever we saw him. I have visited just about every park within the system with the exception of the Gorges, and Hammocks Beach ranks among the very best. The Visitor Center and ferry facilities were excellent and the entire staff was very accommodating towards our Troop. We voted last night at our Troop meeting to make a fall trip to Hammocks Beach an annual event. Please convey this message to anyone you may feel would be appropriate.

Highest regards,
Mike Edmonds
Assistant Scoutmaster
BSA Troop 918

Division of Parks and Recreation Monthly Attendance Report

					% CHANGE	
	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL YTD	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL YTD	(2000/2001)	
DISTRICT/PARK	2001	SEP. 2001	2000	SEP. 2000	SEP.	YTD
EAST DISTRICT						
Cliffs of the Neuse	12,547	110,411	7,969	107,089	57%	3%
Fort Macon	111,632	1,060,688	100,866	1,082,454	11%	-2%
Goose Creek	10,470	91,578	6,704	98,658	56%	-7%
Hammocks Beach	17,526	161,038	14,940	157,626	17%	2%
Jockey's Ridge	81,501	866,784	64,916	916,990	26%	-5%
Merchants Millpond	6,963	67,061	6,186	68,855	13%	-3%
Pettigrew	8,605	74,392	7,266	64,369	18%	16%
SUBTOTAL	249,244	2,431,952	208,847	2,496,041	19%	-3%
NORTH DISTRICT						
Eno River	31,031	251,219	22,788	215,710	36%	16%
Occoneechee Mountain	3,360	28,087	2,684	22,296	25%	26%
Falls Lake	70,807	1,026,953	28,816	632,570	146%	62%
Hanging Rock	38,652	329,172	38,596	327,160	0%	1%
Kerr Lake	138,296	1,592,548	132,016	1,284,528	5%	24%
Medoc Mountain	7,524	54,719	6,944	61,714	8%	-11%
Pilot Mountain	47,057	323,582	35,395	280,959	33%	15%
William B. Umstead	37,335	307,003	38,214	318,924	-2%	-4%
SUBTOTAL	374,062	3,913,283	305,453	3,143,861	22%	24%
SOUTH DISTRICT						
Boones Cave	2,944	24,068	3,130	25,903	-6%	-7%
Carolina Beach	25,596	209,571	18,976	185,546	35%	13%
Fort Fisher	60,632	540,780	48,948	443,606	24%	22%
Jones Lake	7,524	102,110	9,044	96,728	-17%	6%
Jordan Lake	141,012	1,079,760	122,196	1,067,612	15%	1%
Lake Waccamaw	8,376	81,322	2,760	54,811	203%	48%
Lumber River	4,905	40,066	4,280	32,385	15%	24%
Morrow Mountain	47,480	403,540	41,600	296,200	14%	36%
Raven Rock	12,324	93,515	10,778	87,980	14%	6%
Singletary Lake	1,540	16,338	1,514	12,391	2%	32%
Weymouth Woods	2,870	19,904	2,114	20,916	36%	-5%
SUBTOTAL	315,203	2,610,974	265,340	2,324,078	19%	12%
WEST DISTRICT						
Crowder's Mountain	33,633	219,248	28,715	237,279	17%	-8%
Gorges	11,627	79,323	18,075	76,414	-36%	4%
Lake James	14,959	215,154	13,367	202,621	12%	6%
Lake Norman	27,453	204,084	15,602	210,607	76%	-3%
Mount Jefferson	9,095	70,428	8,896	69,550	2%	1%
Mount Mitchell	63,000	399,693	92,631	410,710	-32%	-3%
New River	16,612	107,780	12,567	108,803	32%	-1%
South Mountains	14,632	149,834	13,384	124,116	9%	21%
Stone Mountain	46,008	388,194	57,080	541,518	-19%	-28%
SUBTOTAL	237,019	1,833,738	260,317	1,981,618	-9%	-7%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,175,528	10,789,947	1,039,957	9,945,598	13%	8%

SERVICE AWARDS, 2001

A number of division employees were awarded for their dedication to state government. Below is a listing of employees who received awards and the number of years they have served in NC state government.

Five years

Angelia Allcox
Jackie Cullipher
John Finnegan
Gina Franklin
Jay Greenwood
Jeremy Harrill
Jerry Howerton
Michael Humphries
Michael Jackson
Albert Ouzts
Troy Roberson
Ronald Robertson
Rebecca Rose
William Smith
Clarence Walker
Karl Zorowski

Ten years

Carla Edwards
Jeffrey Grimes
James Helms
Donald Jones
Pam Laurence
Neill Lee
Suzanne Levan
Greg Schneider
William Upchurch
Fred Watkins
Brian Young

Fifteen years

Cheryl Aaron
Scott Ayers
Robin Bennett
Luann Bryan
Cleta Buck
David Cook
Jaye Dow
Ricky Ellis
Philip Hicks
Marti Kane
Daniel Stamm
Carol Tingley

Twenty years

Timothy Benton
Paul Branch
Faye Hutchinson
Steve Moler
Susan Tillotson
Andy Whitaker

Twenty-five years

William Berry
Walt Gravley
Jerry Johnson
Lewis Ledford
Libba Watson

Thirty years

Eugene Daniel
Scott Daughtry
Thomas Sutton

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:



to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;

to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;

to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

and

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

The Steward

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